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MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Choctaw Teacher Initiative Rules and Guidelines Addendum

11 JAN 19

The rules and guidelines for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Choctaw Teacher Initiative are hereby amended to facilitate the removal of an identified barrier, which is the failure of some Teacher Initiative Participants to pass the PRAXIS exam as required by the Mississippi Department of Education for elementary and secondary educators who are studying to complete their 4-year college degrees and who plan to seek certification and licensure in the State of Mississippi as teachers or administrators.

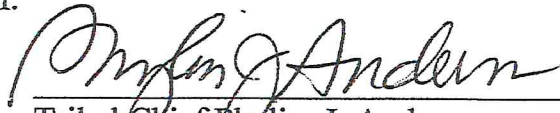
The Choctaw Division of Education leadership has identified a consistent and recurrent pattern of college students enrolled in the Choctaw Teacher Initiative failing upon first attempt some or all required modules of the PRAXIS exam. Students are required to make a passing score on the core module of the standardized PRAXIS exam, which includes Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. In addition to passing the core module of the exam, students must also pass specialty areas of PRAXIS leading to their licensure in their chosen fields, for example, certification in Elementary Education; Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities; or Educational Psychology.

Students enrolled in the Choctaw Teacher Initiative will be granted special authorization to benefit by receiving more free time to study and prepare for the PRAXIS exam during the critical period of their academic studies – the point at which they have completed the first half of their 4-year academic teacher preparation program, which is the point at which they are required to pass all core modules of PRAXIS before being permitted to proceed into the second half of their teacher preparation program.

Teacher Initiative Participants receiving Tribal Scholarships will not be required to enroll in college courses during the semester they are studying for and taking the PRAXIS exam. They will remain fully enrolled in the Tribal Scholarship Program and the Choctaw Teacher Initiative Program during this critical semester. They will not be penalized in any manner during this semester they are granted for PRAXIS preparation. Participants will continue to receive the established and scheduled stipend payments. The Division of Education Director will permit the Participant to receive the Tribe's standardized 4 hours per week for the pursuit of post-secondary educational studies. In addition, the Tribal Chief will permit the Participant to receive an additional six hours per week for the pursuit of post-secondary educational studies. The Participant will be required to attend PRAXIS-practice-exam preparation and test-taking skills training 14 hours per week to be provided onsite and free-of-charge at the Choctaw Virtual Learning Center through a formal agreement with the Tribe's contracted online instructional services provider. The Participant will be required to perform 16 hours per week of classroom duty as Instructional Aid at his or her respective elementary Tribal School. This time and attendance will equal 40 hours per week overall, with school service, CVLC attendance, and authorized time off to study during the critical mid-way semester.

The goal of this addendum to rules and guidelines is to remove barriers to foster success among all Choctaw Teacher Initiative participants and to create flexibility in the students' academic schedules, enabling them to better prepare for and succeed in PRAXIS test-taking readiness.

This addendum becomes effective on 11 JAN 19, and will remain in effect until further written notice from the Tribal Chief.


Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson

C: Director, Division of Education
Director, Choctaw Tribal Schools
Director, Tribal Scholarships
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